



### Course Overview:

Disaster job sites differ from normal construction or demolition sites. Therefore, Disaster Site Workers' roles and responsibilities on the job site are not the same either. Whether the disaster is natural or man-made, the on-site worker needs to develop an awareness of safety and health hazards that may be encountered. Enabling Disaster Site Workers to recognize that they have a responsibility to make decisions and choices that will positively affect their personal health/safety and that of others at the site is a primary theme of this 16-hour awareness course. Learners are given the opportunity to practice their new knowledge, skills and attitudes through discussion, planned exercises, demonstrations and presentations. The ability to immediately apply this new learning to their role as a disaster site worker is enhanced by participating in this interactive, instructor-led course.

The intended audience for this course is Disaster Site Workers who provide skilled support services (e.g., utility, demolition, debris removal, or heavy equipment operation) or site clean-up services in response to a disaster.

### Course Goal (Terminal Objective):

Given a job at a natural or man-made disaster site, the participant will be aware of the safety and health hazards, including CBRNE agents, that may be encountered as well as of the importance of respiratory and other personal protective equipment and proper decontamination procedures that may be used to mitigate the hazards. Participants will support the use of an Incident Command System through the safe performance of their job responsibilities. They will be able to show awareness of effects of traumatic incident stress that can result from working conditions and measures to reduce this stress. In addition, participants will be able to perform the following specific tasks correctly: 1) inspection of an air-purifying respirator; 2) donning and doffing an air-purifying respirator; and 3) respirator user seal check.





## Course Enabling Objectives:

The “Disaster Site Worker Course” will enable the participant to:

- » Recognize characteristics of a disaster site and their responsibility as a disaster site worker.
- » Support the purpose and use of an Incident Command System
- » Recognize disaster site health hazards
- » Recognize disaster site safety hazards
- » Recognize CBRNE agents and symptoms
- » Show awareness of effects of and techniques for managing critical incident stress
- » Recognize and demonstrate proper use of respiratory protection equipment
- » Recognize proper use of other personal protective equipment
- » Cite reasons for and simple methods of decontamination

## Course Topic Titles:

1. Introduction/Overview (1.5 hours)
2. Incident Command System/Unified Command Systems (1.0 hour)
3. Safety Hazards (2.5 hours)
4. Health Hazards (2.0 hours)
5. CBRNE Agents (1.0 hour)
6. Traumatic Incident Stress Awareness (1.0 hour)
7. Respiratory Protection (3.5 hours)
8. Other Personal Protective Equipment (1.25 hours)
9. Decontamination (1.5 hours)
10. Final Exercise (0.75 hour)

A “Theme Worksheet” will be completed by the participants throughout the course as reinforcement of the learning. A discussion of their notes made to complete the “Theme Worksheet” will be facilitated at the end of the course to enhance the retention and transfer of their new knowledge back on the job.

The course will conclude with a final assessment that may be either in the form of a written or oral examination or a demonstration or some other method that will measure the participants’ mastery of all of the course objectives.



## Disclaimer:

This course has been developed by the OSHA Office of Training and Education and the OSHA Directorate of Construction in cooperation with the OSHA Training Institute Education Centers, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and its grantees, and the Office for Domestic Preparedness (DHS). It is intended to assist employers, workers, and others as they strive to improve workplace health and safety. It is not possible to include discussion of everything necessary to ensure a healthy and safe working environment in a course of this nature. Thus, this information must be understood as a tool for addressing disaster site workplace hazards, rather than an exhaustive statement of an employer's legal obligations, which are defined by statute, regulations, and standards. Likewise, to the extent that this information references practices or procedures that may enhance health or safety, but which are not required by a statute, regulation, or standard, it cannot, and does not, create additional legal obligations. Finally, over time, OSHA may modify rules and interpretations in light of new technology, information, or circumstances; to keep apprised of such developments, or to review information on a wide range of occupational safety and health topics, you can visit OSHA's website at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).

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